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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 16/03/2026 (MONDAY)

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Buddhist Council tradition in ancient India:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajagriha under the patronage of Ajatashatru and was primarily concerned with compiling the teachings of the Buddha.
2. The Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali dealt with disputes over monastic discipline and resulted in the split between the Sthaviras and the Mahasanghikas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Neither statement is historically attested

Q2. Which one of the following ecosystems is known to possess the highest net primary productivity per unit area under natural conditions?

- (a) Temperate grasslands
- (b) Coral reefs
- (c) Tropical deciduous forests
- (d) Tundra

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation measurement in India:

1. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures price changes at the retail level and is currently used as the main inflation indicator for monetary policy.
2. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) includes services along with goods while measuring price changes.
3. The base year for the current CPI series used in India is 2012.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and position of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha:

1. The Speaker decides whether a bill is a Money Bill and such decision is final.
2. The Speaker presides over the joint sitting of Parliament in the absence of the President of India.
3. The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Indian Parliamentary Group.



4. The Speaker can vote in the first instance but cannot exercise a casting vote.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Q5. Consider the following with reference to the formation of desert climates:

Assertion (A):

Subtropical deserts are commonly located on the western margins of continents between 20° and 30° latitude.

Reason (R1):

Descending air associated with the subtropical high-pressure belt suppresses cloud formation and precipitation.

Reason (R2):

Cold ocean currents along western continental margins enhance evaporation and promote heavy rainfall.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) A is correct, R1 is correct, and R2 is correct
- (b) A is correct, R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect
- (c) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct
- (d) A is correct, but both R1 and R2 are incorrect

Answers

Q1. (b) Both

Q2. (b) Coral reefs

Q3. (b) Only two

Q4. (c) Only three

Q5. (b) A is correct, R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect

Explanations

Q1. Explanation

The First Buddhist Council (c. 483 BCE) was held at Rajagriha (Rajgir) under the patronage of King Ajatashatru of Magadha. It was chaired by Mahakassapa. The main objective was to compile the teachings of Buddha, especially the Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka through recitations by Upali and Ananda.

The Second Buddhist Council (c. 383 BCE) took place at Vaishali. It dealt mainly with disputes regarding ten monastic practices considered violations of discipline. The disagreement eventually led to the first major schism in Buddhism, creating the Sthavira (Elders) and Mahasanghika groups.

Thus, both statements are correct.



Q2. Explanation

Net Primary Productivity (NPP) refers to the rate at which plants accumulate biomass after accounting for respiration losses.

Among natural ecosystems, coral reefs exhibit extremely high productivity per unit area, comparable to tropical rainforests.

This high productivity arises because coral reefs maintain efficient nutrient recycling through symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) and complex food webs despite being located in nutrient-poor tropical waters.

Grasslands and deciduous forests have moderate productivity, while tundra ecosystems have very low productivity due to cold temperatures and short growing seasons.

Q3. Explanation

Statement 1 – Correct:

The Reserve Bank of India uses the Consumer Price Index (CPI-Combined) as the primary indicator of inflation for monetary policy under the inflation targeting framework introduced in 2016.

Statement 2 – Incorrect:

The Wholesale Price Index measures only goods and does not include services. It includes three major groups: primary articles, fuel & power, and manufactured products.

Statement 3 – Correct:

The base year for the current CPI series in India is 2012, adopted to reflect updated consumption patterns.

Thus, two statements are correct.

Q4. Explanation

Statement 1 – Correct:

Under Article 110 of the Constitution, the Speaker decides whether a bill is a Money Bill and the decision is considered final.

Statement 2 – Correct:

The Speaker presides over the joint sitting of Parliament. If absent, the Deputy Speaker presides, followed by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 3 – Correct:

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the ex-officio President of the Indian Parliamentary Group, which promotes interaction among parliamentarians globally.

Statement 4 – Incorrect:

The Speaker does not vote in the first instance but can exercise a casting vote in case of a tie.

Thus, three statements are correct.

Q5. Explanation

Assertion – Correct:

Most major deserts such as the Sahara, Arabian, Kalahari, and Australian deserts occur near 20°–30° latitudes, particularly on the western margins of continents.



Reason (R1) – Correct:

These regions lie under the subtropical high-pressure belt, where descending dry air inhibits cloud formation and results in very low rainfall.

Reason (R2) – Incorrect:

Cold ocean currents such as the Canary, Humboldt, and Benguela currents reduce evaporation and atmospheric moisture. Instead of promoting rainfall, they suppress precipitation and contribute to desert formation.

Thus, Assertion and Reason (R1) are correct, but Reason (R2) is incorrect.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements regarding Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) technologies:

1. Carbon Capture and Utilisation involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources and converting them into commercially usable products such as fuels, chemicals, or construction materials.
2. CCU technologies always result in permanent geological storage of captured carbon dioxide, thereby eliminating its possibility of re-entering the atmosphere.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Neither statement is conceptually correct

2. Which one of the following countries is the primary implementing authority of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), a major funding instrument for global climate and biodiversity projects?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Norway
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Canada

3. Consider the following statements regarding Large Language Models (LLMs) used in Artificial Intelligence:

1. Large Language Models are trained using deep neural networks, especially transformer architectures that process text through attention mechanisms.
2. Large Language Models inherently possess factual understanding of the real world because their knowledge is continuously verified through external databases during training.
3. Hallucination in Large Language Models refers to the generation of responses that are syntactically plausible but factually incorrect or fabricated.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

4. Consider the following statements regarding El Niño and its climatic implications:

1. El Niño is characterized by an abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. El Niño generally strengthens the Walker Circulation across the tropical Pacific region.
3. In India, El Niño events are historically associated with a higher probability of deficient southwest monsoon rainfall.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Speaker of the Knesset Medal:

1. The Knesset is the unicameral legislative body of Israel.
2. The Speaker of the Knesset Medal is awarded to individuals or institutions that have significantly contributed to strengthening relations with Israel or promoting democratic values.
3. The medal is conferred by the President of Israel as part of the country's civilian honours system.
4. Recipients of the medal may include foreign political leaders and international public figures.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) All four
- (d) Only one

6. With reference to the Chagos Islands, consider the following:

The Chagos Archipelago is located in which of the following regions?

- (a) Central Pacific Ocean, east of Polynesia
- (b) Indian Ocean, south of the Maldives
- (c) South Atlantic Ocean, near the Falkland Islands
- (d) Western Pacific Ocean, north of Indonesia

**Answers**

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (b)

Detailed Explanations**1. Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)**

Statement 1 is correct. **CCU technologies capture CO₂ emissions** from industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants, and steel industries and convert them into **useful products** like synthetic fuels, chemicals, carbonated beverages, or building materials.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Permanent storage of CO₂ occurs in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** rather than CCU. In CCU, the captured carbon may eventually return to the atmosphere depending on how the product is used (for example, fuels).

Therefore, **only one statement is correct.**

2. International Climate Initiative (IKI)

The **International Climate Initiative (IKI)** is a major global climate financing mechanism launched by the **Government of Germany in 2008.**

It is primarily implemented by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)** and the **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).**

The initiative supports projects related to:

- climate mitigation
- climate adaptation
- biodiversity conservation
- sustainable forest management

Hence, **Germany is the correct answer.**

3. Large Language Models (LLMs)

Statement 1 is correct. Modern LLMs such as GPT-type models are based on the **Transformer architecture**, which uses **self-attention mechanisms** to understand relationships between words in large datasets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. LLMs **do not inherently verify facts during training.** They learn statistical patterns from large datasets and therefore may produce incorrect information.

Statement 3 is correct. **Hallucination** in AI refers to situations where the model generates **plausible but false information**, often because it predicts likely word sequences rather than verifying facts.

Therefore, **two statements are correct.**



4. El Niño

Statement 1 is correct. **El Niño** occurs when **sea surface temperatures rise abnormally in the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean**, disrupting normal atmospheric circulation.

Statement 2 is incorrect. El Niño actually **weakens the Walker Circulation**, which normally drives trade winds and convection over the western Pacific.

Statement 3 is correct. In India, many El Niño years have been associated with **weaker monsoons and drought conditions**, although the relationship is not absolute.

Hence, **two statements are correct**.

5. Speaker of the Knesset Medal

Statement 1 is correct. The **Knesset is Israel's unicameral parliament with 120 members**.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Speaker of the Knesset Medal** recognizes individuals who contribute to **strengthening ties with Israel, promoting democracy, or supporting parliamentary cooperation**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The medal is **awarded by the Speaker of the Knesset**, not by the President of Israel.

Statement 4 is correct. Recipients can include **foreign leaders, diplomats, or international figures** who support Israel or democratic dialogue.

Thus, **three statements are correct**.

6. Chagos Islands (Map-based question)

The **Chagos Archipelago** is located in the **central Indian Ocean, south of the Maldives**.

Key geographical facts:

- It forms part of the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)**.
- The largest island is **Diego Garcia**, which hosts a major **US military base**.
- The islands lie roughly midway between **East Africa and Indonesia**.

Therefore, the correct location is **Indian Ocean, south of the Maldives**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Question (GS–1: Indian Society / Geography / Development)

1. Discuss the regional disparities in rural development in India. Examine the role of infrastructure, climate vulnerability and governance in shaping these disparities. Suggest measures to achieve balanced rural development.



Answer

Regional disparities in rural development refer to the unequal distribution of economic opportunities, infrastructure, social services, and livelihoods across different regions of India. While states like Punjab, Haryana, and parts of western India have achieved relatively higher rural prosperity, many regions such as eastern India, central tribal belts, and parts of the Northeast continue to face persistent developmental challenges.

One major factor behind these disparities is **infrastructure inequality**. Regions with better connectivity, irrigation networks, electricity supply, and digital infrastructure have been able to modernize agriculture and develop non-farm rural activities. For example, Punjab and Haryana benefited from the Green Revolution due to irrigation and institutional support. In contrast, rain-fed regions such as Bundelkhand or parts of Jharkhand lack irrigation facilities and market access, limiting productivity.

Another critical factor is **climate vulnerability**. Large parts of rural India depend on monsoon rainfall. Regions prone to droughts (Rajasthan, Marathwada) or floods (Bihar, Assam) face unstable agricultural production. Climate change is intensifying these risks, affecting crop patterns, soil quality, and water availability. Such vulnerabilities reinforce existing regional inequalities.

Governance and institutional capacity also influence rural development. States with efficient local governance and decentralized planning have implemented schemes such as MGNREGA, PMGSY, and Jal Jeevan Mission more effectively. Weak administrative capacity and corruption in some regions hinder proper utilization of development funds.

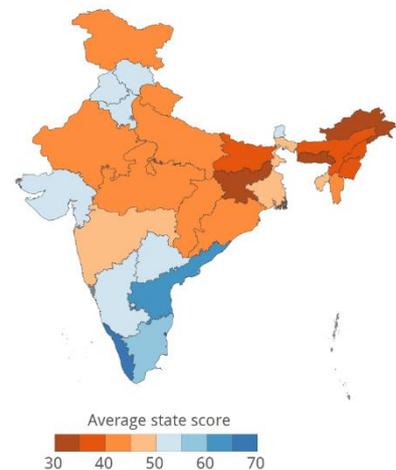
Social factors like **land ownership inequality, literacy levels, and caste-based disparities** further shape regional outcomes. Areas with higher literacy and social mobility tend to diversify into services, agro-processing, and rural entrepreneurship.

To address these disparities, several measures are necessary:

- Strengthening **rural infrastructure**, especially irrigation, roads, and digital connectivity.
- Promoting **climate-resilient agriculture**, including micro-irrigation, drought-resistant crops, and watershed management.
- Enhancing **decentralized governance** through empowered Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Encouraging **rural non-farm employment**, including agro-processing and rural industries.
- Targeted investments in **aspirational districts and backward regions**.

Balanced rural development is essential not only for inclusive growth but also for reducing migration pressures and strengthening India's overall socio-economic stability.

Gram panchayat score by state



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Source: Mission Antyodaya, Union Ministry of Rural Development

**Question (GS–2: Governance / Parliament)**

2. Examine the significance of parliamentary accountability in a democratic system. How do institutions such as Question Hour, Parliamentary Committees and debates strengthen executive oversight in India?

Answer

Parliamentary accountability is a fundamental principle of democratic governance where the executive remains answerable to the legislature for its policies, actions, and decisions. In India's parliamentary system, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. This ensures that the executive functions within the framework of constitutional norms and public interest.

One of the most effective mechanisms of accountability is the **Question Hour**. During this period, Members of Parliament (MPs) question ministers about government policies, implementation gaps, and administrative decisions. This encourages transparency and compels ministers to provide factual information. Often, Question Hour exposes policy shortcomings and administrative inefficiencies, forcing the government to take corrective steps.

Another important instrument is the **Zero Hour**, which allows MPs to raise urgent matters of public importance without prior notice. Though not formally mentioned in parliamentary rules, it has evolved as a powerful tool to highlight pressing issues such as economic crises, social unrest, or environmental disasters.

Parliamentary Committees play a crucial role in detailed legislative scrutiny. Committees such as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Estimates Committee, and Department-related Standing Committees examine government expenditure, policy implementation, and performance of ministries. Since these committees function in a non-partisan manner and examine issues in depth, they significantly enhance legislative oversight.



Debates and discussions on important issues, including **motions of no-confidence, adjournment motions, and budget discussions**, further strengthen accountability. These debates allow MPs to scrutinize government actions and articulate public concerns.

However, parliamentary oversight faces challenges such as frequent disruptions, declining sittings of Parliament, and excessive use of ordinances. Strengthening committee

systems, ensuring regular parliamentary sessions, and encouraging constructive debates can enhance democratic accountability.

Thus, effective parliamentary functioning is essential to maintain checks and balances in governance and to uphold the spirit of democratic accountability.



Question (GS-3: Economy / Technology)

3. Discuss the role of technological innovation in strengthening India's economic resilience. Evaluate the contribution of digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems in sustaining economic growth.

Answer

Technological innovation has emerged as a key driver of economic resilience in India. By enhancing productivity, enabling new business models, and improving governance efficiency, technology has strengthened the country's capacity to withstand economic shocks and sustain long-term growth.

One of the most transformative developments has been the creation of **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**. Platforms such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and the Digital India ecosystem have revolutionized financial inclusion and digital transactions. UPI, for example, has become one of the world's largest digital payment systems, enabling millions of daily transactions and promoting a cashless economy.

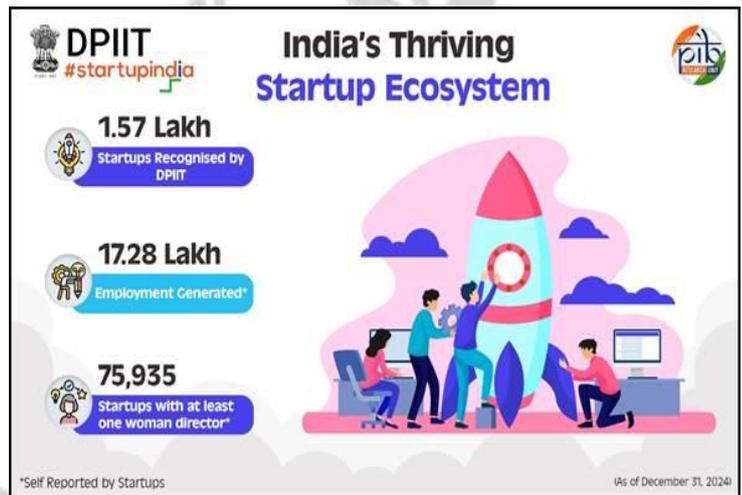
Technology has also facilitated the growth of **India's startup ecosystem**. With initiatives such as Startup India, incubation centers, and venture capital support, India has emerged as one of the world's leading startup hubs. Startups in sectors like fintech, health-tech, ed-tech, and e-commerce have created employment opportunities and expanded access to services.

Digital infrastructure such as broadband connectivity, data centers, and cloud computing platforms has improved productivity across sectors. For example, agriculture benefits from precision farming technologies, while small businesses leverage e-commerce platforms to access wider markets.

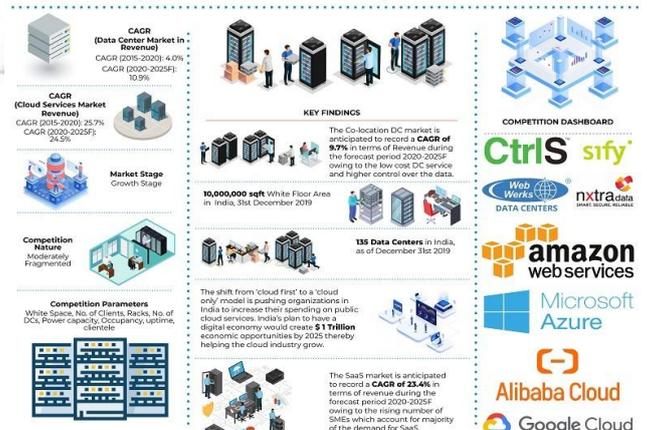
Technological innovation also supports economic resilience during crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital platforms enabled remote work, online education, telemedicine, and digital delivery of welfare schemes.

However, challenges remain. The **digital divide between rural and urban areas**, concerns about data privacy, and the need for skilled human resources must be addressed.

To strengthen economic resilience, India must invest in **research and development, skill development in emerging technologies, and inclusive digital infrastructure**. By integrating innovation with inclusive development, India can sustain high economic growth while improving social welfare.



Booming SME Industry and Govt's push for Digitalization are Expected to Maintain Healthy Growth for Data Center Industry in India: Ken Research





Question (GS-4: Ethics)

4. Integrity and transparency are essential values in public administration. Discuss how ethical governance can strengthen public trust and improve service delivery. Illustrate with suitable examples.

Answer

Integrity and transparency are fundamental ethical values that guide responsible public administration. Ethical governance ensures that public officials act in the interest of citizens while maintaining fairness, accountability, and honesty in decision-making.

Integrity refers to adherence to moral and ethical principles even in challenging situations. Public servants with integrity resist corruption, avoid conflicts of interest, and make decisions based on public welfare rather than personal gain. Transparency complements integrity by ensuring openness in government processes and allowing citizens to access information about policies and decisions.

Ethical governance strengthens **public trust**, which is essential for the legitimacy of democratic institutions. When citizens perceive government actions as fair and transparent, they are more likely to cooperate with policies and participate in governance processes.

For instance, the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005** has significantly enhanced transparency in India by enabling citizens to access government records and hold officials accountable. Similarly, digital governance initiatives such as **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** reduce corruption by transferring subsidies directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Ethical governance also improves **service delivery efficiency**. Transparent systems reduce bureaucratic delays, eliminate middlemen, and ensure that public resources reach intended beneficiaries. For example, online platforms for passport services or digital land records have simplified administrative processes and reduced corruption.

However, ethical governance requires continuous reinforcement through institutional reforms. Ethical training for civil servants, strong anti-corruption mechanisms, and active citizen participation are essential.

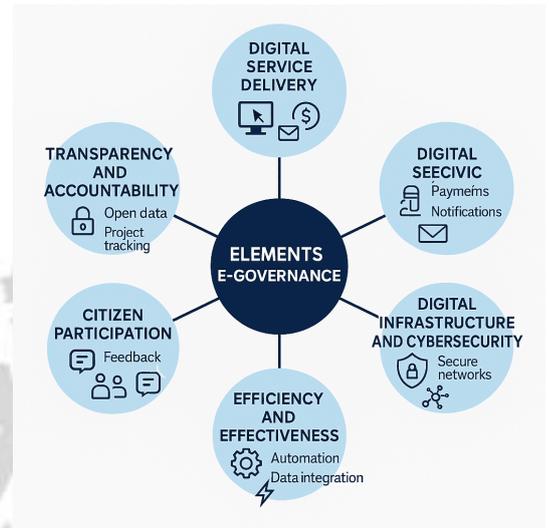
Ultimately, integrity and transparency are not merely administrative values but moral commitments that strengthen democratic governance and promote inclusive development.

Question (Current Affairs)

5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming rural India. Examine the opportunities and challenges associated with AI-driven solutions in agriculture, healthcare, and rural governance.

Answer

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a transformative technology with the potential to significantly improve livelihoods and governance in rural India. By integrating data-driven solutions into agriculture,





healthcare, and rural administration, AI can enhance productivity, accessibility, and efficiency in rural systems.

In agriculture, AI-powered tools help farmers make informed decisions about crop selection, irrigation, pest control, and market prices. For example, AI-based mobile applications analyze satellite imagery and soil data to recommend optimal farming practices. Drones equipped with AI sensors can monitor crop health and detect diseases early, reducing losses and improving yields.

AI also plays a crucial role in **rural healthcare**. Telemedicine platforms powered by AI assist doctors in diagnosing diseases and recommending treatments, especially in remote areas where healthcare professionals are scarce. AI-based diagnostic tools can detect diseases such as tuberculosis, diabetic retinopathy, and skin disorders through medical imaging.



In the domain of governance, AI can improve public service delivery by analyzing large datasets related to welfare schemes, agriculture, and rural employment. Predictive analytics can help governments identify vulnerable populations and allocate resources more effectively.

However, the adoption of AI in rural India faces several challenges. Limited digital infrastructure, low digital literacy, and lack of reliable data can hinder implementation. Additionally, concerns regarding data privacy and algorithmic bias must be addressed.

To fully harness the potential of AI, India must invest in **digital connectivity, capacity building, and ethical AI frameworks**. Public-private partnerships, local language AI tools, and community-based digital training programs can facilitate inclusive technology adoption.

If implemented responsibly, AI can bridge the rural-urban divide and contribute significantly to sustainable and inclusive rural development.